



# THE EASTERN IOWA DX'ER

FALL 1995

CLUB NEWSLETTER OF THE EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION

## 1995 EIDXAs Officers

President: W0SR Jim Spencer  
V. Pres: WB8ZRL Tom Vavra  
Sec/Tres: K0GT Gary Toomsen

## Repeater Committee:

K0VM Al Groff  
W0MJN Joe Finkstein

## Membership Committee:

W0SR Jim Spencer  
W0IZ Dale Repp

## EIDXAs Repeater:

145.190 W0MJN

## DX Cluster:

147.51 WB8ZRL  
144.91 223.40  
CR NetRom Freqs

## ====> EIDXAs MEETING NOTICE <=====

Date: 20th of October 1995 (Friday)

Time: 7:30 pm (door open at 6:30)

Place: Room 219C  
Linn Hall  
Kirkwood Community College  
Cedar Rapids

Agenda: Business meeting & election  
of officers for 1996. The  
program is not finalized as  
the Newsletter goes to print.  
The usual pizza/socializing  
too.

Dues are DUE

Plan on attending!!

## Heard Island

K0IR will be leading a team to Heard Island this November. Ralph was the leader of the successful 3Y0FI Peter I expedition, and can be expected to repeat that success on Heard. This is not a good time of the sunspot cycle, so 10 and 15 meter paths probably will not exist. Twenty and 40 will be the bands with the best chances to put a QSO in the log. Early 1983 was the last big expedition there and I don't know of anyone that worked them on a band other than 20. Remember that Heard is 11,400 miles away short path, and 13,600 miles long path. Thus any direction is close to the short path distance. The strongest signal may come in from any direction. Don't just park the beam at 145 degrees and wait for their signal. We will very nearly have grayline propagation to Heard. In the evening at sunset, point the beam to the North West, and in the morning point to the North East. Make sure your 20 and 40 meter antennas are up to snuff, and g1 in the pileups.

MINUTES

21 July 1995

The summer meeting of the EIDXA was held at 7:30 pm in a training room of Rockwell building 120.

Treasurers report shows \$562.78 in savings, \$62.23 cash on hand with \$57.55 newsletter expense outstanding. The balance after all bills are paid will be \$567.46.

NØVVY reported that tower registration forms are available from him or WØEJ.. It is important to register by Sept. 15 to avoid the \$12.00 fee that will be in affect after that. Also it is important for non-conforming towers to be registered to be covered under the grandfather clause in order to restore a damaged nonconforming tower.

New members voted in were: NØLNO Bill Caldwell, NØVVY Steve Sawyers, NRØX Heinz Blankenhagen, and WØOF Bill Snyder.

WB2IRL gave a packet report. Tom attended a sysop meeting of a new organization of area sysops. Tom was elected Vice President and WIQL is President.

WØSR gave the DXAC report. There are two new country applications, Kingdom of Mustang, and Scarborough Reef. More information was requested from the Kingdom of Mustang applicants. Scarborough Reef is a heated topic that did not pass by a vote 9 to 7. The Pratis Island application was defeated. The vote was 15 to 1 against deleting Aruba. North Korea will be added to the countries list. The Palestine application lacks information.

KØIIR made a motion that the EIDXA support the expedition to Heard Island with a \$100.00 donation. WØIZ second. The motion carried.

A club callsign committee was formed of volunteers WØIZ, WØMJN, WØSML, NB2N, and WØSR.

The meeting adjourned to a program presented by NRØX on the history of Rockwell-Collins Comm Center followed by a tour of the center.

Respectively, KØGT Secretary

The History of Slim

A pirate or bootlegger, or whatever showed up signing BXBAA in 1968. He gave his QTH as "Cray Island" somewhere off the east coast of Canada. He gave his name as Slim. Apparently, according to Slim, Cray Island had formed from a volcanic out-cropping in the North Atlantic and met all the DXCC rules for a new one. Many DXers worked Slim for this new one. Unfortunately, Cray Island did not exist, but the name Slim stuck. Slim's operated from about every rare DXCC country going! And he's usually on CW too. Good OP, but hard to get a QSL from!

Best Regards, Paul VE1UK

Meet our new members

N0LNO

The most exciting addition my family in the past year is my first child, Christopher. He has kept my wife, Elizabeth (N0UTP), and I very busy and hampered our amateur radio slightly. This is a trend that I expect to continue for about 20 years.

I used Christopher as an excuse to retire from the office of president of the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club. I held that office for three, one year terms. The most notable achievement was my participation on an amateur radio committee that worked on the Linn County Tower Ordinance. I am disappointed that the ordinance was the high point of my career but am proud of what was accomplished.

Since I moved one month before Christopher was born, my station and house are still a shambles. I operate on HF using a Hustler vertical in the back yard. I love contesting and have TS-940 that I can bring to any station as a primary or spare radio. I intend to be on packet soon. I hold a Tech-Plus ticket and have been working to upgrade for a few years. I could really use some on the air CW abuse to upgrade.

W0OF

Bill Snyder, W0OF, is the former operator and technician at NPC, WCAT, and KOTA. His wife Jean is N0UFZ who recently passed her 20 wpm test after raising three children: Kathy, a dietitian, XYL of N9DVM; Mary, Phd candidate at Ohio State; George, just married Sep 23rd, a chemical engineer at Gillette by the old Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

Bill's favorite operating activity is Field Day. A most memorable moment was being the guest of W6BIP at the 1953 San Francisco Field Day with a 10 transmitter setup. With a two tube regen receiver in Rapid City, the first ham he heard was Charlie Bogel, W0CVU in 1946 on 20 phone. He started hammering on his own with a 6L6 at 4 watts, a BC455 and a 7005 crystal.

NR0X

Heinz Blankenhagen has lived at his current residence on a farm near Martelle for the past 25 years and has lived in the Cedar Rapids area for 37 years. He and his wife Karin are both hams. Her call is K0ESQ. They have a son Dan also of Martelle.

Heinz became a ham in 1954 and was issued the call W0YTO. In 1976 he received his Extra class license. In addition, he held the call DL4AT while serving in the U. S. Army Signal Corps in Germany in 1957 and 1958. Heinz then went to work for Rockwell Collins where he worked for 35 years. He began his career at Collins as a test technician. He later became a radio operator and for the last 15 years at Collins, was manager of the communications station. Heinz has been retired since 1992.

NR0X \*continued

His interest in ham radio was rekindled about a year ago. He is an avid DX'er and contester. His DXCC total is 320 including deleted countries. When last active over 25 years ago he was top scoring, single op w0 in the CW section of the ARRL DX contest. He is currently busy working on antennas with four towers installed that total 340 feet, and about 400 feet in the barn ready to go up next year.

N0YVY

Steve Sawyers (N0YVY) is married to Angi (KB0NRY) and they have one small harmonic, Chelsea (call not yet assigned). Steve is a Registered Professional Mechanical Engineer who has converted to software and works at Collins' Main Plant. He currently writes software for controlling HF radios to perform Automatic Link Establishment for military radios. Steve also actively supports the mechanical and structural aspects of the Collin's Antenna Farm including inspections and maintenance and consults on remote antenna sites. Steve an ARRL Volunteer Consulting Engineer.

Steve has been interested in radios since a young age and was taking Novice Classes in 1976 when he got sidetracked into computers. Upon returning to Cedar Rapids, his primary requirement for a home was a suitable antenna site. After purchasing the location, he and Angi went and got their licenses. He was very active in the Linn County tower Ordinance, and currently has three towers registered as "under construction". Planned towers are 130', 90', and 85'. He has everything for the towers except the holes, the concrete and the time to put them up. He is active with the KD9KX Antenna Farm and has participates in most contest efforts from there.

TidBits

-->AA0ME<-- Tom has moved to Charlotte, NC. GL Tom, and hope to run across you on the bands -->K0GT<-- Gary underwent back surgery, and seems to be on track to a full recovery. GL Gary -->NR0X<-- Heinz is taking down more towers than he is putting up. The bean-counters of Linn County government would love him. -->K0RWK<-- John will lend his call to the Iowa Radiosport Society special event station at Nowhere, IL on 21 Oct. Where is that again John? -->K0AL<-- Al is teaching a novice/tech class at Kirkwood CC each Monday evening until Thanksgiving -->N0YVY<-- Steve was overheard cursing the "Ls, Vs, Fs etc" during code practice in Al's class -->W0SR<-- I would never believe that a Cherokee could lose a bow/arrow, or at least forget who he loaned it to -->N0BH<-- Jack is finally right side up on Baudot. Its amazing what switched wires can do -->K0VZR<-- Tom is sporting a new IC-775DSP. How does that DSP work Tom? -->W0IZ<-- Drat if that tree didn't grow some more, and keep the beam from turning -->W0EJ<-- Wade is slowly getting his station back together after a(nother) lightning hit -->KA0CWR<-- Mary's call showed up twice in the XR0Y logs off the internet. Congrats on the 12 and 17 meter Qs -->NY0V<-- It is still early in the lowband season, but Tom is already working good ones on 40 -->KC0Q<-- A voice from the past is now back on the repeater. Good to hear you back Jeff

# Up the Tower

By Steve Morris, K7LXC

## The New Phillystran Cable Grip

A Dayton sojourn took me to the Phillystran booth, where I got more details on their recently-introduced Phillystran-compatible preformed guy grips (or as they call them, Big Grip Dead-Ends). What makes them different than the ones that you use for normal  $\frac{1}{4}$ - or  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch EHS guy wire is that these are longer than normal and have a different lay (twist), to match the characteristics of Phillystran. They are installed generally the same way except that you have to put some tension on the Phillystran while installing the preform and you may have to split the strands on the end of the preform to finish wrapping them on. This is due to the fact that the Phillystran is very flexible compared to good old EHS. Other than that, they're just like the preforms that you're used to using.

A couple of years ago I did a cost analysis of cable clamps v preform grips vs Phillystran where it was demonstrated that the Phillystran was the most expensive (albeit useful) guy system you could have. Here's what that analysis looked like:

Let's take a look at a typical cost for a 100-foot guy wire with 4000 pounds breaking strength ( $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch EHS). All prices are out of 1993 QST advertisements.

1) Steel guy broken into four segments (about 26 feet each) using four insulators, two thimbles, 30 cable clamps, and  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch EHS cable. \$40.56

2) Same steel guy using preformed grips instead of cable clamps. \$51.96

3) One Phillystran length with two thimbles and six clamps. \$67.60

Here's the same analysis in 1995 with the same components but with current prices and a new category of Phillystran, with preformed grips:

1) Steel guy broken into four segments (about 26 feet each) using four insulators, two thimbles, 30 cable clamps and  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch EHS cable. \$52.36

2) Same steel guy using preformed grips instead of cable clamps. \$73

3) One Phillystran length with two thimbles and six clamps. \$76.34

4) One Phillystran length with two thimbles and two preformed grips. \$84.90

This new study has turned up two very interesting things. First, the price of EHS guy hardware has gone up 22% to 28% in two years. Secondly, it looks like the cost of installing EHS with preforms ver-

sus Phillystran with cable clamps is now a wash, a cost difference of only 5%. When you also consider the time required to assemble each type (the Phillystran is a fraction of the time compared to the segmented EHS) and the ease of installation (primarily in the weight difference of the assembled guy wire), I'd go for the Phillystran every time. And you get the added bonus of electrically "invisible" guy wires.

### More on Guy Wire

Speaking of guy wires, I got a nice letter from Jack Schuster, W1WEF, who had been on the road in his RV for three months. He related the following story of his guy wire adventure.

"Upon returning to our Cape Cod house where I have a 60-foot Rohn 25 tower that has been up four years and survived a hurricane, I found one of my upper guys lying on the ground. It had pulled out of the guy clamps at an insulator and my first thought was that I must have forgotten to tighten them. I then went over all of the guy clamps and couldn't believe how loose many of them were!"

He went on to mention that he used two cable clamps on each termination instead of the recommended three and had several clamps on backward (he "saddled a dead horse"). Jack's situation isn't uncommon, so let's look at each of these important steps.

1) When tightening up anything on a tower project, tighten it up so that it is "damn tight." Obviously you don't want to break or strip anything, but even cable clamp sized nuts and U bolts will take quite a bit of torque. If you're not sure how much, you might want to keep tightening one until you do break it just to get a feeling for the effort required. Any good hardware (non-Chinese, etc) will take a lot of torque before shearing.

2) When assembling towers, guy wires, or antennas, let them sit overnight and go back over every nut and bolt the next day. You'll be shocked at how loose many of the connections have become. What you're doing is going through one temperature cycle of expansion and contraction. By letting it cycle once and going over the hardware again, you'll reduce the possibility of loose hardware.

3) Always keep in mind the Primary 'LXC Directive, "Do what the manufacturer says and don't do what they don't say." In this case, Rohn and industry

standards specify three cable clamps per turnback where Jack used two. You'd better use three also.

4) When you put your guy wire through a thimble or insulator and double it back to put your cable clamps on it (this is called a turnback), you have two different wires. The continuous one that bears the weight of the guywire forces is called the "live" end and the short piece that is turned back is called the "dead" end. It's "dead" because it is not weight bearing. The cable clamp consists of two parts—the U bolt and the saddle. The saddle portion provides the majority of the holding capacity of the clamp. The saddle goes on the "live" side of the cable. The saying goes "don't saddle a dead horse." In other words, don't put the saddle on the dead side of the turnback. A *clamp mounted backward loses 40% of the holding capacity of a properly installed clamp.*

5) Rohn specs also call for "serving" the end of the dead part of the cable. This is where you separate the strands and wind each around the live wire side. I'll be honest with you, I don't do it. You need a serving tool to do it properly and EHS is so stiff that it isn't much fun. Instead, I add a fourth cable clamp. Although I've never seen a guy wire failure due to the lack of being served, it is better to be safe than sorry.

### Klein Safety Belts

I called the Klein factory to get a copy of their latest catalog (not available at this time, but they're coming out with a new one soon) and also to find out about the status of their safety belt products. It turns out that the rumor about them no longer manufacturing safety belts is true; they are making only full-body, OSHA-approved safety harnesses. Other manufacturers will probably be doing the same thing in the future. The moral of the story: If you are contemplating buying a safety belt for your tower work, you'd better get it now, before they are no longer available.

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## CQAP Membership ROLLS

call	name	address
KU0A	Nelson Moyer	28 Ealing Dr. Iowa City, IA 52246
KOAL	Al Culbert	328 Norman Dr. NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
WD0AWL	Terry Cellman	703 Lincoln St. Ainsworth, IA 52201
WB0B	Larry J. Newby	P.O. Box 185 West Burlington, IA 52655
KZ0C	Jim Bohnsack	1169 Rainbow Dr. Waterloo, IA 50701
KA0CNN	Tom Kueny	2025 Cardinal Lane. N.E. North Liberty IA 52317
KA0CWR	Mary Dennis	400 E. Vine Toledo, IA 52342
WV0D	Terry Perkins	3119 Falcon Dr NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
W0EJ	Wade Walstrom	7431 Macon Drive NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52411
NM0F	D.Wayne Kinnard	219 Park Lane E. Dubuque, IL 61025
WA0FYG	Rick Hadley	115 Scenic Dr. Vinton IA 52349
AA0GG	Frank Weigelt	4055 Stewart Dr NE Iowa City IA 52240
K0GT	Gary Toomsen	2730 Tower Dr. Cedar Rapids, IA 52411
W0GWK	Frank Apple	1935 16th St. Marion IA 52302
KF0H	Jim Harvey	819 N. Main St. Goldfield, IA 50542
NB0H	Jack Muckler	2084 Eastern Blvd. SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
KJ0H	John Schwandke	307 Myrtle Lane Muscatine, IA 52761
WK0I	Terry Parker	535 Sierra Dr Burlington, IA 52601
K0IR	Clark Pantel	1610 Hershey Ave. Muscatine, IA 52761
K0INR	Tom Taylor	RR 1 Shell Rock, IA 50670
W0IZ	Dale Repp	1618 Texas Ave. NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
K0JGH	Glen Kesselring	RR #7 Box 160 Ottumwa, IA 52501
NN9K	Peter E Beedlow	741 Greenway Ave Colona, IL 61241
NN0L	Ron Borkgren	1106 E. 2nd St. Anamosa IA 52205
N0LNO	Bill Caldwell	4505 Regal Ave NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
AB0M	Vern Lang	110 E. 2nd St. Muscatine, IA 52761
AA0ME	Tom Irwin	3321 Woodwardia Drive Charlotte, NC 28210
W0MJN	Joe Finkstein	2210 Empire St. Marion, IA 52302
KE0MO	Tom Redlinger	RR 1 BOX 146 Keota, IA 52248
NK0N	Orville Duecker	226 Southcrest Waterloo, IA 50702
W0NB	Jim Livengood	R.R. 1, Ferre's Lane Burlington, IA 52601
W4NIM	Bob Hill	2037 SW 61st Ave Miami FL 33155
NC00	Tom Hise	PO Box 104 Shellsburg, IA 52332
W0OF	Bill Snyder	3951 Sally Dr NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
N9OK	Al Broendel	2712 38th St. Rock Island IL 61201
NU0P	Steve White	5820 Sanden Rd. NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52411
W0PPF	George Carsner	411 Terrace Rd. Iowa City, IA 52245
WW0Q	Rich Bingham	707 12th Ave. Coralville IA 52241
KC0Q	Jeff Russell	2125 Linmar Dr. NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
K0RW	John Lenahan	923 N. 9th St. Burlington, IA 52601
N0SM	Steve Miller	Route 6 Box 180 Ottumwa, IA 52501
W0SML	Doug Byal	2323 Springbrook Dr, NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52411
W0SR	Jim Spencer	3712 Tanager Dr. NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
WA3TIH	John S Simander	Box 763 Muscatine, IA 52761
KK0U	Paul Feddersen	703 Eclipse Lane Clinton, IA 52732
WR0U	Scott Augsburger	9 Westwood Drive Mt. Pleasant IA 52641
WE0U	George Gruenthal	1106 S. Leebrick Burlington, IA 52601
W0UZ	John Nelson	3109 Terry Dr. SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
NY0V	Tom Vinson	10211 Hall Road NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52411
K0VM	Al Groff	1446 Council St. NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
K0VZR	Tom White	2027 Carter Ave Jesup, IA 50648
AB9W	Larry M Dickinson	4321 5th St East Moline, IL 61244
NG0W	Keith Erickson	1810 Hillside Dr NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
W0WP	Tom Lindgren	9786 Blairs Ferry Rd. Cedar Rapids IA 52411
NR0X	Heinz Blankenhagen	Box 130 Rural Route 1, Martelle IA 52305
KE0Y	Tom Kramer	905 LeRoy Muscatine, IA 52761
NOVVY	Steve Sawyers	1822 Somerset Dr, Marion, IA 52302
WB0ZKG	Chuck Dennis	400 E. Vine Toledo, IA 52342
WB8ZRL	Tom Vavra	682 Palisades Access Rd. Ely, IA 52227

## PacketCluster

After DX spots, the most used feature of the PacketCluster is the mail system. We send and receive private and public mail within the cluster and in/out of the BBS system (via WA0RJT.) Here are a few hints about how to make things easier for yourselves and for your SYSOP.

Periodically check to see if you have new mail. I see mail sit for long periods without being read, but the user is otherwise active. Some users periodically (every few hours, or every day) enter R. If there is new mail addressed to them, it will be presented at this point. If not, it will return "No New Mail". Other users periodically DIR/NEW to get a list of new mail either address to themselves or addressed to a "public" address. The names I have set as "public" are: ALL, NEWS, LOCAL, WANT, HELP, SALE, and NEED.

"Public" messages are automatically deleted after 14 days. The originator can delete them earlier if they have served their purpose (eg. the VE session the message announces has been held). Private messages are deleted after 21 days. If you need to retain a message longer than that, then either download it to your disk or printer, or make special arrangements with me to retain it. Many users are careful to delete (DEL or KILL) their messages after they read them. When you get the prompt right after reading a message, K or DEL at that point will delete that message. At any times K ### will delete it. Taking a few moments to clean house and delete your old messages is certainly appreciated by your SYSOP. DIR/OWN will give you a list of messages with your call in either the TO or FROM field.

WA0RJT has been very helpful in making the BBS network available for inbound and outbound messages. Anyone wishing information on using this feature to communicate with someone outside the cluster needs to ask me.

dan di dit dit ZRL

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When Bob Hill left, he gave a bow and arrow set to the club to ease the task of getting wire antennas through the trees. W0SR loaned those items to someone who has not returned them, and Jim cannot remember to whom he loaned them. Please get with Jim if you know of their location.

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Everyone should have received their ballots for Midwest Division Director. It is in everyone's interest to vote, so mark that ballot now and get it in the mail.

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### MOVING SALE (or Dreams I can't use in town)

Unused Rohn 25 and 45 foldover towers with accessories, torque bars, EHS guy cable, anchors etc. complete. New sections as you need up to 68 feet, not sold before foldover purchasers needs fulfilled. Good discount, stored inside.

Also a used Telrex 20 mtr 6 element 46 foot boom yagi antenna. Center 18 feet of boom is heavy wall 3 1/2 inch, balance of boom is 3 inch aluminum. In wooden box. Power gain 25, F/B 28 db.

Onan 5 KW continuous duty 120/240 vac 3600 rpm generator. Rope start. Used little.

Reasonable delivery on all items. Call Bill Snyder W0OF (319) 378-3141

## Protecting Your Tower

Please allow me to share an idea with you that has worked extremely well for me for the last 20 years or so.

Like many of you, I have some close neighbors with some cheap electronic entertainment devices. Also, like many of you, I used to be very active in several contests per year and I would occasionally get an RFI complaint that could usually be resolved with some effort. One particular neighbor, however, chose not to confront me with the RFI he was suffering with, instead, reporting me to the FCC repeatedly, until finally, he stumbled onto the right kind of a complaint . . . he could hear me in a transistor radio. He had been complaining about hearing me in his three tape recorders (purchased at K-Mart) and the FCC would not cite me on that complaint. Well, anyway, I finally got this letter from the FCC instructing me, in no uncertain terms, to get over there and check out this RADIO RFI problem. I had 10 days to respond.

At the time, I was working as a Sales Engineer at Tektronix and my expertise was microwave spectrum analyzers. I had about \$200,000 worth of demonstrators at my disposal for checking out this problem. When I called on my neighbor, he informed me that it wasn't the radio interference that bothered him, but the tape recorder interference instead. I showed him my official letter from the FCC (that HE initiated) and showed him there was no mention of tape recorder interference in it. He explained that the FCC would not take a complaint about tape recorder interference from him and I asked him if he knew why. He said it was because the FCC is just another worthless government body that doesn't give a damn about the little guy. I tried to explain the real reason but of course got no where. Of course I insisted we get on with testing for RADIO interference because I had no option but to answer the FCC's letter. It was only when I told him that I would have to answer that it was because of the complainant's refusal to cooperate that I was unable to determine the nature and extent of any RADIO interference, that he let me run any tests. Surprise! Surprise! I was clean except for a little 2nd harmonic from 10 meters that could cause some trouble on channel 2 TV. I fixed it with a lowpass filter and gave a full report to the FCC. The FCC was happy. My neighbor, however, was still unhappy.

With the FCC report out of the way, I told my neighbor that I would be glad to try to help him resolve his tape recorder problems. I borrowed an excellent tape recorder (a Wollensak) from work (Tektronix) and showed my neighbor that Tek's tape recorder was perfectly free of RFI while all three of his were blown away when my Dad was transmitting in my shack. This REALLY made him angry. I then told him that I had a good chance of being able to help him fix his tape recorders, too, but we would have to agree on some ground rules before I could actually work on his recorders, especially since he had showed extreme hostility toward me at the beginning and throughout these tests. He had to agree that I was not to be held responsible for the continued maintenance and future failures of his recorders if I helped him take care of the interference. He totally rejected that idea and said I would be completely responsible for anything that happened to his tape recorders if I dared to touch them. We were at an impasse and I told him there was nothing more I could do and that I would be operating on the following weekends and to expect interference at those times. He had interference! He sent his son-in-law

banging on my hamshack door with threats of violence. His son-in-law had been observing in the news a recent rash of power company tower bombings and suggested to me that my tower could come down the same way! All it would take is quarter stick of dynamite in the right place. I knew he was right and it seemed like there was nothing I could do to protect against it. A determined vandal will scale fences, fend off guard dogs, defeat alarms, and do almost anything else if necessary. I was REALLY worried.

I think it was my wife who suggested I take a look at our insurance coverage. I called our insurance agent and we had a discussion about insuring my towers against vandalism. He assured me that they were covered in our home-owner's policy and I told him I wanted to make certain the coverage was adequate since I had had a real threat of serious damage from a neighbor. I also told him that I had put my three towers up for a total cost of about \$5000 but I wanted them covered for replacement by brand new material professionally installed and that would run about \$15,000 if they were destroyed. He wrote a rider on our policy and the fee was very modest and certainly well worth every cent.

Right here is where I had a stroke of genius, if I do say so myself! I decided to let my neighbor know about my insurance policy. Being a salesman, I know that the way you deliver the message is critical to your success and I knew just how to deliver this message!! I called on him personally and informed him that I had solved my tower problem. He said, "You mean you got that @#\*&% interference fixed?"

I said, "No, as we discussed before, the interference is YOUR problem. My problem is that your son-in-law has threatened to blow my towers down and I can assure you that I feel safe and confident that he will not do it now."

"Oh yeah, what makes you so &%\*# sure!"

"Here are the facts: I paid about \$5000 in cash to buy the material to build those towers and antennas. Most of it was used and I got it at bargain prices. All of the labor was either my own or friends who helped me for free. It will cost my insurance company \$15,000, which they will pay me in cash, if those towers happen to come down. Do you have ANY IDEA what a set of towers I could put up for \$15,000??? I'm excited! I can hardly wait to find out!"

He was speechless. In fact he has been speechless on this subject for 21 years. I don't get on the air much anymore which I guess is part of the reason I don't hear from him. I also mentioned that the insurance company has his name and the name of his son-in-law on file and if anything bad happens to my towers, he should expect a call from an insurance investigator, the local police, and the FBI since deliberately tampering with a Federally licensed radio station is a Federal crime. It is clearly in his best interests that my towers remain as they are, standing tall in my yard, and he fully understands this now.

I know this is not the "touchy, feely, friendly" solution that leaves you and your neighbors as best friends, but I don't think that was in the cards in this situation. I hope there is an idea or two here that might do you some good should you need it. Sorry for being so long-winded but that was quite probably the most satisfying "contest" I have ever won . . . and I have the trophies standing in my yard to prove it.

Stan W7NI

Check out the following contests to help fill in your band and mode needs.

Oct 7-8	1000-1000	VK/ZL/Oceania DX Contest, SSB
Oct 14-15	1000-1000	VK/ZL/Oceania DX Contest, CW
Oct 15	0700-1900	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, CW
Oct 21		DARC Worked All Germany Contest
Oct 28-29	0000-2400	CQ World-Wide DX Contest, SSB
Nov 4		Ukrainian DX Contest
Nov 11		Japan International DX Phone Contest
Nov 11-12	1200-1200	OK/OM DX Contest
Nov 11-12	1200-2400	Worked All Europe DX Contest, RTTY
Nov 25-26	0000-2400	CQ World-Wide DX Contest, CW
Dec 1-3	2200-1600	ARRL 160 Meter Contest
Dec 9-10	0000-2400	ARRL 10 Meter Contest

"Better, faster,cheaper -- choose any two"

X2  
Thanks to the following for their contributions to this newsletter:  
K0GT, W0OF, N0LNO, N0YVY, N0ROX, K7LXC, W7NI, VE1UK and the NCJ.

TOM VAVRA           WB8ZRL  
682 Palisades Access Rd.  
Ely, Iowa       52227-9717



Jim Spencer W0SR  
3712 Tanager Dr. NE  
Cedar Rapids, Ia 52402